

5      Abstract of the Disclosure

        An adaptive variable-length coding/decoding method performs an optimal variable-length coding and decoding depending on an intra mode/inter mode condition, quantization step size and a current zigzag scanning position, such that a plurality of variable-length coding tables having different patterns of a regular region and an escape region according to statistical characteristics of the run level data are set. One of the variable-length coding tables is selected according to mode, quantization step size and scanning position, and 15 the orthogonal transform coefficients according to the selected variable-length coding table are variable-length-coded.